

## **Abstract**

The separate gel pieces from a gel cutting (27), it is necessary firstly to determine the position of the gel piece, e.g., by means of a scanner, and after an interval, which frequently lasts for some hours, to pick the gel pieces from the gel cutting (27). The gel cutting (27) must be stored in a gel holder (21) during this interval in an expansion-stable and positionally stable manner. For this purpose, the gel cutting (27) is held in the gel holder, floating in an equilibrating liquid (31). The equilibrating liquid causes the dimensions of the gel cutting to remain unchanged during the interval. With respect to the gel holder (21) the gel cutting (27) can be definitively positioned in that it is cut out so as to fit exactly in a chamber (24) of the gel holder (21), possibly being slightly larger than the chamber, and/or is held by a clamping device firmly in the edge region which is generally of no significance for the evaluation. Using this holding method the separation of gel pieces from the gel cutting (27) can be conveniently carried out by means of a tubular removal means which is pushed through the gel, since the gel cutting is not connected to the gel holder (21) over its surface but rather floats on a thin layer of equilibrating liquid (31).

132166